

## Message from Libyan Prime Minister Designate Fathi Bashagha



Seiden, Maya  
To Seiden, Maya



Fri 9/23/2022 12:46 PM

Good afternoon,

BGR Group represents Libyan Prime Minister-designate Fathi Bashagha. As world leaders gather for the UN General Assembly, there is a unique opportunity to permanently alter the trajectory of North Africa – for the better. Mr. Bashagha is steadfastly dedicated to achieving a democratic Libya. After more than a decade of instability, he is the only leader currently committed to an actionable timeline for democratic elections. I know Mr. Bashagha would greatly appreciate an opportunity to speak with you further about his plans.

It is vital that the international community speaks in one voice on Libya, one that supports the will of the Libyan people and their aspirations for self-determination. A free Libya will benefit the world, and through security and immigration improvements to increased energy access, democracy will unleash an engine of positive change in North Africa.

I have attached Mr. Bashagha's policy platform, *How to Move Libya Forward*. Mr. Bashagha outlines the possible paths forward in Libya: a continuation of the undemocratic status quo or putting in the real work to implement a credible, elected, transitional government with the express mandate of holding elections within 14 months.

Additionally, building off his *Roadmap to Recovery*, Mr. Bashagha has also included his commitment to establish presidential and parliamentary elections if he is supported by a democratic process, focusing on a clear, actionable, and transparent timeline for elections, economic reforms to fight corruption and benefit the people of Libya, efforts to ensure the security of the Libyan people and expel foreign fighters, and his strong focus on transparency and accountability throughout every level of government.

Prime Minister-designate Bashagha and his National Security Advisor, Fadeel Lamen, would welcome the opportunity to speak with you or your boss, to expand on their commitment to implement a lasting democracy in Libya and to support European energy independence, as well as to seek your advice on how the international community can better support Libya's nascent democracy.

***Please let me know if you or your boss are available next week for a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Bashagha or National Security Advisor Lamen to discuss the democratic future of Libya. Of course also please reach out if you have any questions.***

All my best,

Maya

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***Note: BGR Government Affairs, LLC has filed registration statements under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with regard to its representation and dissemination of information on behalf of Fathi Bashagha. Additional information is on file with the Foreign Agents Registration Unit of the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.***



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## How to Move Libya Forward

The current situation in Libya is untenable. With unclear control over government services and a lack of accountability to our citizens, we must collectively take action to change Libya's trajectory. There are three possible scenarios for leadership in Libya at this time. Below we outline those potential paths forward and their implications.

### 1) **Continue the status quo with a leader whose mandate has expired**

While supporting the status quo may be the easiest path for some international observers, it undermines the democratic aspirations of Libyans and keeps Libya from being able to provide support to the international community. Unfortunately, outgoing Prime Minister Dbeibeh has consistently demonstrated an unwillingness or inability to hold democratic elections – his main mandate when initially elected. His promise for presidential and parliamentary elections in December 2021 came and went unmet, and his government has shown no commitment to following through on this key pledge. This was the main reason that the Libyan House of Representatives (HOR) expressed no confidence in Dbeibeh in early 2022. His continued lack of commitment to Libyan democratic aspirations will only prolong and compound the division that has beset our country for too long. Dbeibeh has relied on international recognition to ignore the domestic will of his people, expressed through the HOR – and there is no indication that he would change this behavior if the status quo persists.

### 2) **Endorse the emergence of a new political figure who could consolidate support from different domestic factions**

A so-called 'Third Option' seems to be what many observers are waiting for – a fresh, charismatic, democratically-minded leader to rise up and unite the various factions within Libya to lead toward democratic elections unchallenged by all. While it is easy to wish for such an actor, grievances within all interested parties run too deep to believe this is a viable option. Simply put, there is no silver bullet for Libya's problems, and there is no savior waiting in the wings to swoop down and save the Libyan people. We must do that work ourselves, despite the challenges it presents.

### 3) **Enable a new, transparent, and UN-supported vote by the Libyan House of Representatives to elect a consensus government**

The final option available in Libya is a new, transparent, effective election within the House of Representatives, one held with the backing and support of international watchdogs and the United Nations, to elect a consensus-driven caretaker government with the sole mandate of establishing free, fair, transparent, and safe elections in which all Libyans can participate. This caretaker government would ensure the people of Libya are safe to vote for who they feel will lead them best without fears of intimidation or reprisal and will ensure the first fully democratic government of Libya is accountable to the will of the Libyan people.





### **My Commitment, Should I Be Chosen to Help Move Libya Forward**

I, and my government, are fully committed to the hard work of establishing a democracy in Libya.

I will restructure my government, making substantial changes to address the concerns of the Libyan people and the international community. For my government to be successful, it must be consensus-driven and inclusive, and I will welcome supporters of former Prime Minister Dbeibeh into my government. Their expertise and knowledge will be vital for our success, and while we may have wide disagreements, we share a commitment to supporting and enhancing the Libyan way of life for all our citizens.

This new government will then be submitted to the House of Representatives (HOR) for a vote of confidence, under the observation of the United Nations and other international watchdogs to ensure transparency and legitimacy. If chosen by the HOR to lead Libya forward, I will take several immediate steps to align my government to this task:

#### ***I. Elections***

Democratic elections are the driving force of my government and the only reason I sought the Prime Minister position in the first place. Over the last decade, the Libyan people have seen government after government rise, but none have followed through on the wishes of the Libyan people. Unfortunately, my predecessor was unwilling or unable to establish conditions for an election last December, as was required. This cycle of inaction ends with my government. Libya will be a democracy. We will unleash our people's potential and provide them opportunities to succeed. Failure to achieve this objective will not be accepted. And within 14 months of a vote of confidence from the HOR, elections *will* be held.

This starts with full enfranchisement for all Libyans. My government will place a special focus on voter registration and education campaigns to ensure all Libyans are engaged in the democratic process. I especially want this focus to include the youth of Libya. They are our future, and it is essential we are responsive to their concerns and are advocates for their future. They will continue our work long after we are gone, turning democratic aspirations into a democratic legacy of which all Libyans can be proud.

I will work hand-in-hand with the HOR and the High Council of State, along with all relevant stakeholders, to ensure necessary steps are taken so that a constitutional framework is finalized within 4 months of an HOR confidence vote. This will ensure a strong foundation from which Libya's democracy can launch, and it will prevent the all-too-frequent backsliding on commitments to elections. I will work closely with the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the international community, and my consensus-driven government to implement my Roadmap to Recovery and ensure free, fair, transparent, and safe elections are held within 14 months of my election. Libya deserves no less.



## **II. Security**

I harbor no illusions about the challenges that face us, as foreign forces work to undermine Libya's development, seeking short-term political gains at the expense of our people. Libya welcomes international support and engagement, and we look forward to the fast-approaching day that we can return the generosity that we have received. However, Libya cannot achieve its democratic aspirations and return as a benevolent global player without first addressing malicious foreign interference in our country.

The security of the Libyan people must be guaranteed if open elections are to be held. Quasi-mercenary organizations, like the Wagner Group, and other destabilizing actors backed by destabilizing powers like Russia have no place in the future of Libya, and my government will work with our international partners to counter and expel these forces. While Libya is always appreciative of international partners seeking to assist in capacity building for our security services, the Libyan people cannot and will not accept foreign forces operating without approval or oversight by the Libyan government.

Libya has experienced over a decade of division and violence, often driven by these foreign forces, and these wounds will be hard to heal. My government is committed to protecting the lives and livelihoods of all Libyans, and we seek to guarantee all Libyans can vote without fear of retaliation or reprisal in any form. This includes building on the ceasefire agreement and supporting the work of the 5+5 to end hostility and to unify armed forces. The purpose of this is to fully integrate armed forces into the government to establish a clear command and control system to end violence from clashes between armed groups.

## **III. Economic Reforms and Energy Production**

Establishing a democratic system is crucial, but it cannot succeed without support through government resources. Libya has bountiful natural resources, including oil, but for too long, the rewards of these resources have been funneled into the pockets of the few and powerful. In my time as Prime Minister, I have spoken with people across Libya, including in the Oil Crescent. Every conversation reinforces the frustration that Libyans feel with how previous governments have operated. With such abundant resources, shouldn't the Libyan people benefit? Under my government, they will.

I will push for an independent National Oil Company (NOC), one that is not required to siphon funds away to corrupt actors. I will fully fund the NOC as well, so it is able to develop infrastructure and increase production, ensuring consistent and high-volume production. We will also work with international entities who wish to develop in Libya, and we will bring clarity and fairness to the nebulous array of contracts opened by previous governments, ensuring all Libyans benefit while our commitments to international partners are honored.





While these actions will drastically benefit the Libyan people by opening economic opportunities that have been closed for decades, they will also enable Libya to support our international friends and partners. Libya has been a playground for destabilizing Russian actions for too long, and our hearts break to now see Ukraine subject to a full onslaught of Russian aggression. We have seen Russia wield its leverage over the European energy market maliciously – but through these vital reforms, Libya will be able to provide vital energy to Europe, reducing Russia’s malign leverage and supporting our partners facing supply challenges.

**IV. *Transparency and Accountability***

For these reforms to last, and for our nascent democracy to flourish, it is essential that Libya build a culture of transparency and accountability across the government – from elections to government revenue. Combining anticorruption efforts with budget laws, we will establish fiscal transparency and curb wasteful spending.

Libya is at a crossroads, and my government and I are ready to lead Libya to the democratic future our people have been seeking for nearly a decade. We believe in a peaceful transition of power and have worked to promote stability throughout our operations. We are committed to doing everything in our power to bring democracy, security, prosperity, and peace to the people of Libya. While previous governments have defaulted to the use of force, my government has peaceful intentions and will follow my Roadmap to Recovery to ensure all Libyans have a voice in our political process and share in the bounty of our great nation. The Libyan people have the right to self-determination and must be the ultimate arbiters of their fate and future.

Sincerely,  
Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Fathi Bashagha", written over a faint, large watermark of the Libyan coat of arms.